

Miss M. Fannie Dodd.

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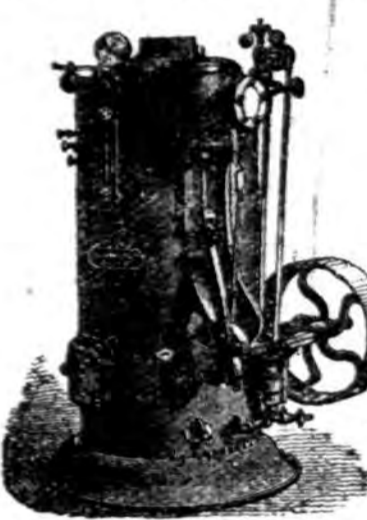
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## LITERATURE OF THE DAY.

A SOUND PHENOMENON.

When two trains, going in an opposite direction at a rapid rate, meet each other with the engine bells ringing or whistles blowing, a passenger in one train notices a marked variation in the tone of the bell or whistle of the other train. When the sound first strikes the ear, the pitch is at its highest. Gradually it goes down, as the train dashes past, and the lowest pitch is reached when the last note falls to the ear. Why is this?

The question was propounded to an engineer the other day by an individual thirsting for information. "The question is simple enough," was the reply. "To start with, it is an axiom which needs no proving that the pitch of the sound depends on its number of vibrations. Thus, while forty vibrations a second produce the lowest sound, forty thousand a second produced the highest. Pitch rises with an increase of the number of vibrations."

A certain number of vibrations are emitted by the bell or whistle during the time the train is running a certain distance—say a quarter of a mile. Suppose each train runs this distance in half a minute. Then, as the one train approaches that in which the listening passenger is seated, all the vibrations emitted during the half minute will strike the ear in less than half a minute, supposing, of course, that they can be heard over so great a distance. The reason for this is that the first will not be heard until more than two seconds after it has been emitted, as the sound will have to travel half a mile, while the last will be heard the instant it is emitted, because the engine will then be within a few feet of the ear. Thus thirty seconds' vibration will be heard in twenty-eight seconds. When the trains are receding from each other the vibrations emitted during the half minute will take rather more than thirty-two seconds to reach the ear, as that emitted when the train is half a mile off will have to travel to the ear."

"Can you illustrate this to make it plainer?" the engineer was asked. "Certainly I can. Suppose a man with a rubber hose stands ten yards from a tub. The capacity of his hose enables him to squirt a pint of water per second into that tub. But if, during, say five seconds, he walks up to the tub, all the while allowing his hose to pour water into it, there will be more than five pints of water as the result of that five seconds' work. There will be five times plus the quantity contained in the stream which would have fallen to the ground if he had stood still, and at the end of five seconds turned the cock, shutting off the stream. By the approach of the whistle or bell of an engine a greater number of vibrations meet the ear in a given time, just as a greater quantity of water reaches the tub from the hose by the approach of the nozzle. And, accepting as correct the axiom that the greater number of vibrations the higher the pitch, it will be seen that when the trains approach the ear gets more than its due share of vibrations per second, and when they recede it gets less than its share."

THE CRITICAL MAN.

"I noticed an article in your paper this morning," said a little red-headed man, coming up alongside the local's table, "that was all wrong. It was so much out of the way that I thought I would come up and set the paper right."

"We are always glad to be corrected when we make mistakes. What was the article that attracted your attention?"

"It was about the runaway on South Temple street. I was there a few hours afterward, and found out the whole business."

"Well, what was the matter with the item?"

"It was all wrong."

"Can't you specify some special feature that was wrong?"

"Well, you say the horses shied at some paper blown across the street, but it was real rage. You said it was the off horse that cut his leg, when in reality it was the high horse. The reason that I am so particular about these things is probably because I never make mistakes myself, and I like to see everybody just right. You said—"

Just then a little boy came rushing into the room, quite excited, and called out:

"Say, dad, there's a man down at the store kicking up a duss of a row; said the change you gave him was four dollars short, and had a counterfeit two-dollar bill in it, besides."

And the particular and critical little man hurried away to correct his mistake.

When he returned, his wife told him that five or six customers had called in and left again because she could not rectify the prices of things. His pilgrimages went out between the acts they pulled their cigarette and agreed that the new rule was very proper. So thought the police, and they arrested two distinguished individuals, who were promptly condemned to five days' imprisonment. The option of a fine was not given them.—Progress.

We get more cotton by what we hear than by what we say. Perhaps the highest art in conversation is to make others talk. The man who hears you may be heard; the man who talks to you never is. He may be dissatisfied with your views; he is sure to be satisfied with his own.

The religious ceremonies of the Egyptians were preceded by abstinence, and the sacrifices were allowed neither animal food nor wine.

He whose windows are of glass should never throw stones.

of motherly devotion and baby trust was very beautiful. While we were examining the assistant tender came to say there were over twenty sheep missing. Two male dogs, both larger than the little mother, were standing about, with their hands in their breeches pockets, doing nothing. But the border said neither Tom nor Dick would find them. Flora must go. It was a girl by the assistance that her foot was sore, she had been hard at work all day, was nearly worn out and must suck her puppies. The boss insisted that she must go. The sun was setting. There was no time to lose. Flora was called and told to hunt for lost sheep, while her master pointed to a great forest, through the edge of which they passed on their way up. She raised her head, but seemed very loth to leave her babies. The boss called very sharply to her. She rose, looking tired and low spirited, with head and tail down, and trotted off toward the forest. I said:

"That is too bad."

"Oh, she'll be right back. She's lighting on stray sheep."

The next morning I went over to learn whether Flora found the strays. While we were speaking the sheep were returning, driven by the little dog, who did not raise her head or wag her tail even when spoken to, but crawled to her puppies and lay down by them, offering the little empty breasts. She had been out all night, and while her hungry babies were tagging away, fell asleep. I have never seen anything so touching. So far as I was concerned, there was not a dry eye in the house.—Colorado Letter.

## THREE LOVERS IN THE CAME.

"She was a magnificent creature. Her eyes were as blue and glowing as the sky when the sun is in his glory, and her cheeks were as rosy as the sky when the sun smiles and sets behind a cloudless horizon. This magnificent girl had never been in love." Such is the glowing description of Miss Lucy Swivel as furnished by the Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette. That journal further informs its readers that Miss Swivel has been teaching school on the river below the city; that she boarded at the house of Henry Muckle, a widower and the leading citizen of the neighborhood; and that both George and John Muckle, sons of the old man, were rivals for her hand. One day recently, both of the young men, who graduated together at a Northern college lately, proposed marriage to Miss Swivel. She told each to appear before her at noon on the Monday following. They obeyed. She said that she loved John and adored George, so they must enter into some contest for the prize. Would they walk twenty miles in ten hours? The lover who could make the better power was to have her. Neither would win unless the specified ground should be covered in the specified time. The lane at the house was a half-mile long. The young men started. At the expiration of three hours Mr. Muckle approached, with the fair teacher on his arm.

"Wait a minute, my devoted sons," said the old man, "each of you have shown your affection for your step-mother."

"Step-mother!" exclaimed George.